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DIRECTORATE OF
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State Department review completed

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Denmark - North Vietnam: Recognition question

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NOTE

DENMARK - NORTH VIETNAM: FOREIGN MINISTER HARTLING FEARS THAT COPENHAGEN'S ABILITY TO STAVE OFF PRESSURE TO RECOGNIZE NORTH VIETNAM IS BEING ERODED BY US FAILURE TO APPOINT A SUCCESSOR TO AMBASSADOR LODGE. HARTLING TOLD US AMBASSADOR DUDLEY THAT THE RATIONALE FOR DENMARK'S POLICY OF NONRECOGNITION WAS THE AVOIDANCE OF ANYTHING THAT MIGHT AFFECT THE PARIS PEACE TALKS NEGATIVELY. HIS REMARKS ALSO PROBABLY REFLECT HIS AWARENESS OF THE INCREASE IN ADVERSE COVERAGE BY THE DANISH MEDIA OF THE US PRESENCE IN VIETNAM. ONE OPPOSITION PARTY LEADER REPORTEDLY IS PLEDGED TO REOPEN THE RECOGNITION QUESTION IN MID-JANUARY IN PARLIAMENT WHERE A MOTION TO RECOGNIZE HANOI WAS DEFEATED LAST JUNE BY A VOTE OF 86 TO 66.

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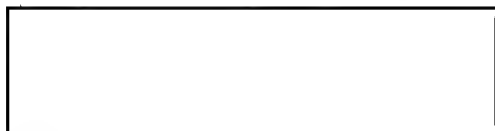
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